12 Feb. 1685.

By the KING.

A PROCLAMATION.

JAMES R.

JAMES the Seventh by the Grace of GOD, King of *Scotland*, *England*, *France*, and *Ireland*, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and ſundry Our Good Subjects, whom theſe preſents do or may concern, Greeting: We having taken into Our Royal Conſideration the many and great inconveniencies, which have happened to that Our Ancient Kingdom of *Scotland* of late years, through the different perſwaſions in the Chriſtian Religion, and the great Heats and Animoſities amongſt the ſeveral Profeſſors thereof, to the ruine and decay of Trade, waſting of Lands, extinguishing of Charity, contempt of the Royal Power, and [illegible] of true Religion, and the fear of GOD, into Animoſities, Names, Factions, and ſometimes into Sacrilege and Treaſon, and being reſolved, ſo much as in Us lyes, to Unite the Hearts and Affections of Our Subjects to GOD in Religion, to Us in Loyalty, and to their Neighbours, in Chriſtian Love and Charity, Have therefore thought fit to Grant, and by Our Soveraign Authority, Prerogative Royal, and Abſolute Power, which all Our Subjects are to obey without Reſerve; Do hereby Give and Grant Our Royal Tolleration, to the ſeveral Profeſſors of the Chriſtian Religion after-named, with, and under the ſeveral Conditions, Reſtrictions, and Limitations after-mentioned. In the firſt place, We Allow and Tollerat the Moderat Preſbyterians, to Meet in their Privat Houſes, and there to Hear all ſuch Miniſters, as either have, or are willing to accept of Our Indulgence allanerly, and none other, and that there be not any thing ſaid or done contrary to the Well and Peace of Our Reign, Seditious, or Treaſonable, under the higheſt Pains theſe Crimes will Import; nor are they to Preſume to Build Meeting-Houſes, or to Uſe Out-Houſes or Barns, but only to Exerciſe in their Privat Houſes, as ſaid is: In the mean time, It is Our Royal Will and Pleaſure, that Field-Conventicles, and ſuch as Preach, or Exerciſe at them, or who ſhall any ways Aſſiſt or Connive at them, ſhall be Proſecuted according to the utmoſt Severity of Our Laws made againſt them, ſeing from theſe Rendezvouzes of Rebellion, ſo much Diſorder hath proceeded, and ſo much Diſturbance to the Government, and for which after this Our Royal Indulgence for tender Conſciences, there is no excuſe left. In like manner, We do hereby Tollerat Quakers, to Meet and Exerciſe in their Form, in any Place or Places appointed for their Worſhip. And conſidering the Severe and Cruel Laws, made againſt *Roman*-Catholicks (therein called *Papiſts*) in the Minority of Our Royal Grand-Father of Glorious Memory, without His conſent, and contrary to the Duty of good Subjects, by His Regents, and other Enemies to their lawful Soveraign, Our Royal Great Grand-Mother Queen *Mary* of bleſſed and pious Memory, wherein, under the Pretence of Religion, they Cloathed the worſt of Treaſons, Factions and Uſurpations, and made theſe Laws, not as againſt the Enemies of GOD, but their own; Which Laws have ſtill been continued of courſe, without deſign of executing them, or any of them *ad terrorem* only, on Suppoſition, that the Papiſts relying on an External Power, were Incapable of Duty, and true Allegiance to their Natural Soveraigns, and Rightful Monarchy; We of Our certain knowledge, and long Experience, knowing that the Catholicks, as it is their Principle to be Good Chriſtians, ſo it is to be Dutiful Subjects, and that they have likewiſe on all Occaſions ſhown themſelves Good and Faithful Subjects to Us, and Our Royal Predeceſſors, by hazarding, and many of them actually loſing their Lives and Fortunes, in their Defence (though of another Religion) and the Maintenance of their Authority againſt the Violences and Treaſons of the moſt violent Abettors of theſe Laws, Do therefore with Advice and Conſent of Our Privy Council, by Our Soveraign Authority, Prerogative-Royal, and Abſolute Power aforeſaid, Suſpend, Stop and Diſable all Laws or Acts of Parliament, Cuſtoms or Conſtitutions, made or executed againſt any of Our *Roman*-Catholick Subjects, in any time paſt, to all Intents and Purpoſes, making void all Prohibitions therein-mentioned, Pains or Penalties therein Ordained to be Inflicted, ſo that they ſhall in all things be as free in all Reſpects as any of Our Proteſtant Subjects whatſoever, not only to exerciſe their Religion, but to enjoy all Offices, Benefices and others, which We ſhall think fit to beſtow upon them in all time coming; Nevertheleſs it is Our Will and Pleaſure, and We do hereby Command all Catholicks at their higheſt Pains, only to Exerciſe their Religious Worſhip in Houſes or Chappels; and that they Preſume not to Preach in the open Fields, or to Invade the Proteſtant Churches by force, under the pains foreſaid, to be Inflicted upon the Offenders reſpectively, nor ſhall they preſume to make Publick Proceſſions in the High-Streets of any of Our Royal-Burghs, under the Pains above-mention

ed: And whereas the Obedience and Service of Our Good Subjects is due to Us by their Alledgiance, and Our Soveraignity, and that no Law, Custom or Constitution, Difference in Religion, or other Impediment whatsoever, can exempt the Subjects from their Native Obligations and Duty to the Crown: or hinder Us from Protecting and Employing them, according to their several Capacities, by Our Royal Pleasure, nor Restrain Us from Conferring Heretable Rights and Privileges, Annul these Rights Heretable, when they are [illegible] or Conferred: And likewise Considering, that some Oaths are capable of being pledged upon them, or Vacuat Intentions, a Practice in [illegible] Religion, as it was to Loyalty; Do therefore, with Advice and Consent aforesaid, Warrand by Men of Sinistrous Oaths whatsoever, by which [illegible] incapacitated, or disabled from holding Places, or Offices in Our said Kingdom, or enjoying their Hereditary Rights and Privileges. Discharging the [illegible] Cast, Annul and Discharge, [illegible] on or given in any time coming, without Our special Warrand and Consent, under the pains due to the contempt of Our Royal Commands and [illegible] effect, We do by Our Royal Authority aforesaid, Stop, Disable, and Dispense with all Laws enjoyning the [illegible] Oaths, Tests, or any of them; Particularly the [illegible] Act of the first Session of the first Parliament of King *Charles* the Second; the eleventh Act of the foresaid Session of the foresaid Parliament; the sixth Act of the third Parliament of the said King *Charles*; the twenty first, and twenty fifth Acts of that Parliament; and the thirteenth Act of the first Session of Our late Parliament, in so far allanerly as concerns the taking the Oaths, or Tests therein prescribed, and all others, as well of mentioned as mentioned, and that in place of them, all Our good Subjects, or such of them as We or Our Privy Council shall require so to do, shall take and Swear the following Oath allanerly. *I A. B. do Acknowledge, Testifie and Declare, that* JAMES *the Seventh by the Grace of* GOD, *King of* Scotland, England, France *and* Ireland, *Defender of the Faith*, &c. *is rightful King, and Supream Governour of these Realms, and over all persons therein, and that it is unlawful for Subjects, on any pretence, or for any cause whatsoever, to rise in Arms against Him, or any Commissionated by Him; and that I shall never so rise in Arms, nor assist any who shall so do; and I shall never resist His Power or Authority, nor ever oppose His Authority, to his Person, as I shall answer to* GOD, *but shall to the utmost of my power Assist, Defend, and Maintain Him, His Heirs and lawful Successors, in the exercise of Their Absolute Power and Authority, against all Deadly*, So help me GOD. And seing many of Our good Subjects have, before Our Pleasure in these Matters was made Publick, incurred the Guilt appointed by the Acts of Parliament above-mentioned, or others; We, by Our Authority and Absolute Power and Prerogative-Royal above-mentioned, of our certain Knowledge, and Innate Mercy, Give Our ample and full Indemnity to all those of the *Roman* Catholick or *Popish* Religion, for all things by them done contrary to Our Laws or Acts of Parliament, made in any time past, relating to their Religion, the Worship and Exercise thereof, or for being Papists, Jesuits, or Traffickers, for hearing, or saying of Mass, concealing of Priests, or Jesuits, breeding their Children Catholicks, at home or abroad, or any other thing, Rite or Doctrine, said, performed, or maintained by them, or any of them: And likewise, for holding or taking of Places, Employments, or Offices, contrary to any Law or Constitution, Advices given to Us, or Our Council, Actions done, or generally any thing performed or said against the known Laws of that Our Ancient Kingdom; Excepting always from this Our Royal Indemnity, all Murders, Assassinations, Thefts, and such like other Crimes, which never used to be comprehended in Our general Acts of Indemnity. And We Command and Require all Our Judges, or others concerned, to Explain this in the most Ample Sense and Meaning Acts of Indemnity at any time have contained: Declaring this shall be as good to every one concerned as if they had Our *Royal Pardon* and *Remission* under Our Great Seal of that Kingdom. And likewise Indemnifying Our *Protestant* Subjects from all Pains and Penalties due for Hearing or Preaching in Houses; Providing there be no Treasonable Speeches uttered in the said Conventicles by them, in which Case the Law is only to take place against the Guilty, and none other present; Providing also that they [illegible] Our Council the Guilt [illegible] Committed, [illegible] Excepting all Fines or Effects of Sentences already given; And likewise Indemnifying fully and freely all Quakers, for their Meetings and Worships in all time past preceeding the Publication of these Presents; And We doubt not but Our Protestant Subjects will give their Assistance and Concourse hereunto, on all Occasions, in their respective Capacities: In consideration whereof, and the Ease those of Our Religion, and others may have hereby, and for the Encouragement of Our Protestant-Bishops, and the Regular Clergy, and such as have hitherto lived orderly, We think fit to Declare, that it never was Our Principle, nor will We ever suffer Violence to be offered to any Mans Conscience, nor will We use Force, or Invincible Necessity against any Man on the account of his Perswasion, nor the Protestant Religion, but will Protect Our Bishops and other Ministers in their Functions, Rights and Properties, and all Our *Protestant* Subjects in the free Exercise of their Protestant Religion in the Churches; And that We Will, and hereby Promise, on Our *Royal* Word, to Maintain, the Possessors of Church Lands formerly belonging to Abbays, or other Churches of the Catholick *Religion*, in their full and free Possession and *Right*, according to Our Laws and Acts of Parliament in that behalf in all time coming; And We will Imploy indifferently all Our Subjects, of all Perswasions, so as none shall meet with any Discouragement on the account of his *Religion*, but be Advanced, and Esteemed by Us, according to their several Capacities and Qualifications, so long as We find Charity and Unity Maintained; And if any Animosities shall Arise, as We hope in God there will not, We will show the severest Effects of Our *Royal* Displeasure against the Beginners or Fomenters thereof, seing thereby Our Subjects may be Deprived of this general Ease and Satisfaction, We Intend to all of them, whose Happiness, Prosperity, Wealth and Safety, is so much Our *Royal* Care, that We will leave nothing undone which may procure these Blessings for them. And lastly, To the End all Our Good Subjects may have Notice of this Our *Royal* Will and Pleasure, We do hereby Command, Our Lyon King at Arms, and his Brethren Heraulds, Macers, Pursevants and Messengers at Arms to make timeous Proclamation thereof at the Mercat-Cross of *Edinburgh*; And besides the Printing and Publishing of this Our *Royal* Proclamation, it is Our expres Will and Pleasure, that the same be past under the Great Seal of that Our Kingdom *per saltum*, without passing any other Seal or Register: In Order whereunto, this shall be to the Directors of Our Chancellary, and their Deputs for Writing the same, and to Our Chancellor for causing Our Great Seal aforesaid to be Appended thereunto, a sufficient Warrand.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall, *the Twelfth day of* February 168$\frac{6}{7}$. *And of Our Reign the Third Year.*

By His *Majesties* Command, *MELFORT.*

GOD SAVE THE KING.

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